

***Funding Goes to Virtua Health to Implement Women's Veterans Health Program, Supports Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst***

Burlington County – Congressman Adler today announced \$3 million in funding he secured for a local project to support our area's female veterans. The grant would fund a Virtua Health proposal to establish a collaborative VA-DoD Women Veterans and Service-members Joint Health Resource Center in conjunction with the Warrior Transition Program at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. As more women enroll in the Armed Forces, there is a growing need for gender specific care among the Armed Forces. Virtua's proposal would create a pilot program to better understand the health problems experienced by the growing population of women serving in the military.

"The men and women of our Armed Forces are willing to sacrifice their lives for our safety," said Congressman John Adler. "Our grateful country can do more to honor our women veterans. This funding will help deliver quality care specific to the under-served female veteran population."

"Virtua is proud to partner with the Department of Defense, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst and Congressman John Adler to benefit our nation's heroes," said Richard P, Miller, Virtua's Chief Executive Officer. "We recognize the essential role that women fulfill in the military and the ever-growing number of women veterans. We at Virtua applaud Congressman Adler's efforts to help us develop and fund this new program to help enhance the health resources and care provided to women veterans and service-members."

Among new military recruits, the proportion of females is growing, with women constituting 20% of the freshman class. Despite the increased female enrollment and medical care, DoD and VA are still seeing alarming trends in Military Sexual Trauma, divorce rates and mental illness among female service-members.

Virtua Health proposes an effort to deal with this new trend. The funding the Congressman helped secure would help implement phase one of the Women Veterans and Service-members Joint Health Resource Center. Phase one of the project would allow Virtua to educate female veterans about the availability of gender-specific programs within the VA and supplemental resources that are available in Burlington and surrounding counties. This education will include health information and resource referrals for the following:

- routine obstetric and gynecologic care;

## **Congressman Adler Announces \$3 Million for Women Veterans**

Tuesday, 07 September 2010 10:18

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- diagnostic screening for breast health and bone health;
- oncologic care for gynecology and breast treatment needs;
- provision of mental health resources focused on addressing needs of sexual trauma counseling, evaluation and treatment of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), readjustment counseling, postpartum depression and mood disorders; and
- a Traumatic Brain Injury Program with community re-entry assistance.

The funding was recently passed by the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense. The bill must be passed by both the House and the Senate before going to the President's desk for his signature.